

Dylan grabs 2 in first half spree

3-9-74

Wycombe Wanderers 4, Molesey 0

FOUR first half goals, including another superb long range effort from Howard Kennedy, put Wycombe Wanderers in an impregnable position in Tuesday night's friendly against Athenian League Division Two club Molesey (writes Stuart Earp).

Poor Molesey were simply outclassed for the majority of the first 45 minutes and although they came back well after the interval when Wycombe made countless changes, new goalkeeper Laurie Cole was given little chance to show his talents.

Cole was not the only new player on the field. Centre back Gavin Brown, who trains regularly with the Blues and comes from Thame, put in an impressive performance while substitute David Kitchen from Amersham also worked hard. The biggest surprise of the night, however, was the appearance of Gary Hand.

A left footed full back, Hand was one of the highly successful Hendon team of recent years but this season signed on with former Hendon boss John Evans at Ilford. A player of obvious class, Wycombe would be that much stronger with a natural left sided player in their squad.

Perhaps Wanderers' two best players on Tuesday were Tony Horseman and Dylan Evans. It was an ideal night for strikers—plenty of room in which to manoeuvre against an overworked defence. They certainly made the most of it. Horseman revelled in the conditions and was sending in shots from all angles before he was replaced at half time.

MUCH IMPROVED

Evans is a much improved player this term and looked distinctly quick over the turf. He helped himself to two fine goals and generally fitted in extremely well.

It was Dylan who put the Blues ahead with the match just two minutes old. A poor goalkick by Terry Self found Horseman who slotted the ball through two defenders to Evans. Although slipping on the greasy surface, he sent a rising shot into the top of the net and gave Self no chance of correcting his earlier error.

Molesey, denied possession constantly, became distinctly rattled at the back. Their two skilful centre halves, Dave Yerby and Micky Stratford tried their best but sheer weight of numbers induced many errors. Several would-be back passes skidded well wide of the keeper for corners while a string of clearances were miskicked.

Keith Searle scored a welcome goal in the 12th minute—his first for some time. A Mick Holifield corner found

Dave Bullock unmarked and the big centre back nodded the ball into the six yard box for Searle to flash a header past Self and two defenders on the line.

Cole's first real activity was to collect a high back pass from Holifield in the 22nd minute as Molesey failed to match Wanderers' fine control of the ball on a difficult surface. Kennedy was particularly impressive in this respect and sprayed some fine passes around the field.

Yerby, a former Slough player, got in the visitors' first real shot at the 'keeper after half an hour, Cole failing to gather a 30 yard shot. The ball bounced nicely out for John Murphy, but the long haired striker shot just wide. Three minutes later Evans struck again. Taking full advantage of a loose ball on the edge of the box, he beat Self with a carefully placed shot right into the corner.

Only three minutes had passed before Kennedy blazed in Wycombe's fourth goal. It was another Kennedy special and his long range shooting could prove vital for his club this season. Not since Paul Bates have Wycombe possessed a player with such a hard shot but his real ability is keeping the ball on the ground. This latest effort came from a free kick. Kennedy played a short one-two with Evans and then let fly first time from some 30 to 35 yards. The ball raced across the turf and left 'keeper Self grasping at thin air. A superb goal.

After this first half goal spree, Wycombe went off the boil after the interval, mainly because of several changes. Keith Mead replaced Holifield in midfield and Steve Perrin came on for Horseman. Griffiths was subbed by Kitchen and then the former returned for Dave Bullock.

Molesey had Self to thank for some fine saves notably from Perrin and Kitchen but the half was mainly to give several of the new players a run-out.

WYCOMBE: L. Cole; P. Griffiths (sub. D. Kitchen 65 mins.), G. Brown, D. Bullock (sub. P. Griffiths 75 mins.), G. Hand, G. Mackenzie, H. Kennedy, M. Holifield (sub. K. Mead 45 mins.), A. Horseman (sub. S. Perrin 45 mins.), K. Searle, D. Evans.

MOLESEY: A. Self; M. Bricknell, K. Baker, D. Yerby, M. Stratford, R. Thomas, J. Robinson, S. Jobling, J. Murphy, M. Murphy (sub. J. Strong 45 mins.), R. Goodhind (sub. J. Beck 45 mins.).

Half time 4-0. Goalscorers,
Wycombe — Evans 2 (6, 33), Searle (12), Kennedy (36).

Official paying attendance: 252.